



OCT 07 2002

Dear Tribal and Urban Leaders:

I have now completed 45 days as Interim Director of the Indian Health Service (IHS). I am convinced that there is no other place I would rather be right now. I look forward to meeting more Tribal Leaders so I can benefit from your guidance and insight into the health issues facing our people now and those that will face our children in the future.

It is a privilege to serve as Interim Director and to be an integral part of the IHS/Tribal/Urban system as we move forward in unison to address the health care needs of American Indians and Alaska Natives. I look forward to meeting those of you who I have not met yet, and I am including a copy of my biography for your information.

As Interim Director, my main goal is to focus on the priorities set by you and other members of the IHS/Tribal/Urban health care team, in concert with other agencies of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the priorities of the Administration and the Secretary of HHS. This includes strengthening the business infrastructure of the Agency; increasing prevention and wellness efforts; and focusing on bringing all possible resources, inside and outside of HHS, to bear on Indian health issues.

With your support and active involvement in IHS programs and the setting of priorities, I hope to continue the Agency on the path of serving American Indian and Alaska Native people.

Sincerely yours,

Charles W. Grim, DDS
Charles W. Grim, D.D.S., M.H.S.A.
Assistant Surgeon General
Interim Director

Enclosure